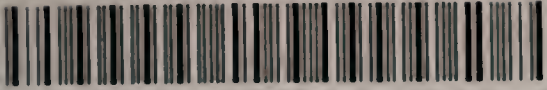


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HISTORICAL NOTES

OF THE

ISLAND OF NANTUCKET,

AND

TOURIST'S GUIDE.

BY

R. H. COOK.



NANTUCKET,

JULY, 1871.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1871, by
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TOURIST'S GUIDE
AND
HISTORICAL NOTES
OF THE
ISLAND OF NANTUCKET.

THE TOWN OF NANTUCKET

Is situated on the northern shore of the island, at the head of the harbor. It is built mostly of wood, and very compact. The facilities for sailing, bathing, and fishing are unsurpassed by any place on the coast. The climate is very mild, the thermometer never showing, even in the warmest day in summer, a higher degree of temperature than eighty-six Fahrenheit. The nights are always cool, and one sleeps very comfortably with a blanket covering. A gentleman visiting the island was surprised at finding so many aged people there, and remarked to an old sea-captain, that he "wondered if anybody ever died on the island." The captain answered "Die? Never!

They merely dry up and blow away!" The town is very healthy indeed, there being at the present time several persons over ninety years of age. Invalids from the interior have found great relief, and have realized very beneficial results, from a short sojourn on the island. About eight miles from the town, on the south-east shore of the island, is situated the picturesque village of

SIASCONSET,

or "Sconset" as it is called by the islanders. This contains a hotel, the Atlantic House, and about fifty cottages, occupied through the summer season by visitors from all parts of the country. It is located on a high bank or bluff, about fifty feet above the sea, and commands a fine view of the ocean and the countless sail of vessels that are continually passing by that side of the island. Surf-bathing here is very fine.

SANKOTY HEAD

is well worth a visit from the tourist. The lighthouse is built on a bluff, about ninety feet above the level of the sea. The light itself is of French manufacture, and is visited by most of the sight-seers who come to the island.

SESACACHA POND

is a beautiful sheet of fresh water, about nine miles from town. White perch are caught here in great abundance. There is a house of entertainment on the border of the pond, kept by Mr. Chadwick, where parties are supplied with dinners. The host and hostess sustain a well-earned reputation for kindness and courtesy to all visitors, and also for good dinners.

SOUTH SHORE.

A pleasant drive of about three miles from the town, directly across the island, brings one to the "South Shore," or beach. Shells are here found in abundance. Blue fish are caught in great quantities by drailing from the shore.

FISHING BANKS.

Fish of all kinds, in their season, are caught in great numbers at "the head of the harbor," "Great Point," "Tuckernuck," and "Muskeget Rips." Yachts, with competent captains, can always be had to convey parties to the various fishing banks, and on picnics and clam-bakes. In all the fishing parties that have been carried out,

there never yet has been any of the accidents which are so numerous at the other watering places along the coast.



Extracts from the Press.

[*Bridgeport Standard — P. T. Barnum.*]

Of course Nantucket is cool and delightful in the summer. The best codfish in the world are caught and cured by Nantucket fishermen. The "Ocean House," E. W. Allen, proprietor, is one of the best-kept hotels I ever saw, and the Atlantic House, at Siasconset, also appears a nice place. There are also numerous private families who take boarders here, and where well-disposed persons of leisure are sure of having a "nice time."

[*Boston Post.*]

As a summer retreat, Nantucket has been for a long time well known, and every year adds to its reputation. The Ocean House, of which E. W. Allen, Esq., is proprietor, is kept as a first-class hotel in every respect. The rooms are large and airy, the beds clean and neat, the servants are attentive, and the table is supplied with everything the market affords. The fish and chowders are the best to be found on the coast.

[*Springfield Republican.*]

NANTUCKET AS A WATERING-PLACE.

This may become a favorite resort as a watering-place. Houses are plenty and cheap. We have rarely found a more pleasant home at a hotel than at the Ocean House. Everything is scrupulously neat, and the table is well supplied with well-prepared food. The landlord and his wife are models in their craft in their attentions to their guests.

[*Sunday Morning Gazette, Boston.*]

One of the pleasantest places of resort during the hot weather is "Nantucket," and we would advise our readers, if they wish to pass a few weeks at a watering-place, where the air is cool and the bathing accommodations good, to take the 8 A. M. train from the Old Colony depot, arriving at Nantucket in time for dinner, where they will be well cared for by the proprietor of the Ocean House, Mr. E. W. Allen, as gentlemanly and obliging a landlord as they ever met.

[*Boston Daily Advertiser.*]

Nantucket has one institution which is very rare, — I mean a good hotel. The Ocean House,

kept by E. W. Allen, Esq., is equalled in its comfort and the general excellence of its arrangements by few hotels out of the large cities, and, I might almost say, in them. Many families from Boston and the vicinity have spent a portion of the summer here, and the popularity of the house has steadily increased. Nantucket has beaches which are not surpassed on the Atlantic coast, and presents many attractions as a watering-place.

[*Boston Ploughman.*]

It is only occasionally we find a man who really "knows how to keep a hotel," and when we do, we like to make a note of the fact for the benefit of our friends who may have occasion to travel, either for business or pleasure. During a recent trip to Nantucket, we found at the Ocean House clean, comfortable rooms, good fare, and such polite attention on the part of the landlord and his wife as justifies us in commending it to the patronage of those who, at this season of the year, have means and leisure to devote to a little recreation upon the seashore.

[*Tourist's Guide to Southern Massachusetts.*]

At Hyannis we find the steamer "Island Home," and after a passage of about two hours we arrive at

NANTUCKET.

The world-renowned hospitality of the inhabitants of Nantucket renders it scarcely necessary here to remind the tourist that a visit to this place will ever rank among his most pleasant associations of summer travel. The inhabitants, isolated from the main land and frequently during the winter months entirely cut off from any communications with the outside world, vie with each other in cordial greeting to the stranger, and the memories of "squantums" at Polpis, and chowders at Siasconset, will linger long in the minds of the visitor. Tourists will find Mr. Allen, at the Ocean House, kind and courteous, and ready to supply every need.

HISTORICAL NOTES
OF THE
ISLAND OF NANTUCKET.

COMPILED BY R. H. COOK.

THE Island of Nantucket was discovered in 1602, by Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, an Englishman, who sailed from England in a small bark, with thirty-two persons, bound for Virginia, in search of a proper seat for a plantation. The first land seen was Sankoty Head; Indian population about 1,500.

The origin of the name of the island is not authentically known; but it is supposed that *Nanticon*, known by ancient mariners, and Nantucket are the same.

1641.

The island was deeded to Thomas Mayhew and his son Thomas, Jr., by James Forett, agent of William, Earl of Sterling.

1659.

The island was deeded, by Thomas Mayhew, to the ten original purchasers, for the sum of thirty pounds, and two beaver hats, namely:—

Tristram Coffin, Thomas Macy, Christopher Hussey, Richard Swain, Thomas Barnard, Peter Coffin, Stephen Greenleaf, John Swain, and William Pile.

Thomas Mayhew reserving one-tenth of the island, together with Masquetuck, or Quaise.

Each of the above chose an "associate," with whom to settle the island, namely:—

Tristram Coffin, Jr., John Smith, Robert Pike, Robert Barnard, Thomas Coleman, Edward Starbuck, Nathaniel Starbuck, Thomas Look, Thomas Coffin, Thomas Mayhew, Jr.

Thomas Macy and family, with Edward Starbuck, arrived from Salisbury.

The Indian population about 700. Soil rich, and the island covered with a forest of oak-trees.

1660.

Ten families removed to Nantucket from Salisbury.

1663.

Peter Foulger moved to the island. The in-

habitants, with the exception of Foulger, illiterate; their occupation, farming and fishing. The island, with the exception of Quaise, was divided into twenty-seven parts.

1664.

The land owned by Sachems Wanackmamack and Nickanoose, sold by them to the original purchasers for the sum of twenty-six pounds.

1665.

King Philip visited the island.

1666.

The first mill for grinding corn was built on Wesko pond.

1671.

Town incorporated; its location being at the head of Maddequet harbor.

1672.

Site of the town moved to Wesko, its present location. First whale caught.

1673.

Whaling commenced in boats from the shore. The town was called Sherburne by order of

Francis Lovelace, Governor of the Province of New York, April 18.

1676.

About this time Sesacacha (containing about thirty houses) and Siasconset villages were built. Also the cluster of whale-houses at Myacomet, together with the fishing-stages at Peedee and Quidnet, and the fishing-stage at Weeweeder. Sesacacha village continued in existence one hundred and forty years; the last house being moved to Siasconset in 1820.

1693.

The island (previously a part of New York), by request of the proprietors, became a part of Massachusetts.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

1704.

The whites, though they numbered about seven hundred, had no settled religious teacher, and were without a church. The Mayhews had Christianized the Indians. The latter (with the New Testament translated into their language) had four meeting-houses. Their service (presbyterian in form) was conducted in their own language. The whites were, and had been during the past

half century, mostly Baptists, a few were Presbyterians, and one or two Quakers. During this year a Friends' Society was formed. First execution took place.

1711.

The North Congregational Society formed, and the first meeting house (still standing, 1871) was erected. It was built of oak that grew on the island. Name of first pastor not known.

1715.

The number of vessels engaged in the whale fishery was six, all sloops of from thirty to forty tons' burden each, which produced £1,100 sterling, or \$4,888.88.

1719.

White population, 721.

1723.

First wharf built. (Straight wharf.)

1726.

White population, 917.

1730.

Quanaty Hill dug away to make land from Union Street to the present shore.

1732.

Rev. Timothy White, pastor of the First Congregational Society.

1755.

Three whaling-sloops and their crews, consisting of thirteen men each, were lost near the Grand Bank.

1756.

Six whaling-sloops were taken and carried to France, where their crews were imprisoned, most of whom never returned.

1757.

First square-rigged vessels, of one hundred tons' burden and upwards, were fitted out for whaling.

1763-4.

White population,	3,220
Indian “	358
	<hr/>
	3,578

Indian plague, which swept off two hundred and twenty-two Indians, leaving only one hundred and thirty-six on the island.

1765.

North meeting-house removed to Beacon Hill (its present site). Out of 3,270 whites only for-

ty-seven were pew-holders. Whaling in boats from the shore entirely ceased. One hundred and one vessels engaged in whale-fishery.

1771.

Small-pox hospital erected by Dr. Samuel Gelston on Gravelly Island. One hundred vessels engaged in whaling.

1772.

First sperm-candle manufactory established.

1775-81.

One thousand six hundred Nantucketers lost their lives during the Revolutionary War. Over one hundred and fifty vessels engaged in whale fishery.

1778.

Ratable property on the island \$866,630. Small-pox hospital on Gravelly Island abolished, and the buildings bought by the town.

1783.

Brant Point Lighthouse burnt.

1784.

Population 4,269. Lighthouse erected on Great Point.

17

1790.

Population 4,620.

1791.

First whaling-vessel went from the island to the Pacific Ocean.

1795.

Name of the town changed from Sherburne to Nantucket. Old North Tower erected. Three wigwams (in Squam) only left standing.

1795.

Nantucket bank incorporated, and robbed \$22,000 same year.

1797.

Streets first named.

1798.

Four Nantucket ships were captured by the French.

1800.

The academy (private) was incorporated, and building erected on Academy Hill. A bell weighing one thousand pounds was placed in the steeple of the North Congregational meeting-house. Population, 5,617. Methodist Society formed.

1804.

The Pacific Bank, and two Insurance Offices were established. Forty-eight ships engaged in the whale fishery.

1809.

The Unitarian Society formed. Rev. Seth F. Swift, pastor.

1810.

Population 6,807.

1812.

A whaling schooner captured by the British, and the crew made prisoners of war. A fire, in the easterly part of the town, consumed eight buildings. Loss \$6,000. A petition for protection sent to James Madison, President U. S.

1815.

February 2d, the coldest day ever before known; the thermometer was eleven degrees below zero. Social Library instituted; John Hussey, Esq., President.

1816.

The "Nantucket Gazette" issued. This was the first paper published on the island; not receiving the expected patronage, it was discontinued after a short time. Great Point Lighthouse burned.

1819.

Population, 7,266. Fifty-seven ships, and four brigs engaged in the whale-fishery. Four brigs, fifteen schooners, and sixty-two sloops engaged in the coasting business.

1820.

The Mechanics' Association, a literary society, was formed.

1821.

Seventy-eight ships, six brigs, sixteen schooners, fifty-nine sloops, engaged in whaling and coasting. Total tonnage, 27,445.

1822.

The last Indian died.

1823.

The Columbian Library Association formed.

1827.

Two public schools established; Coffin School opened.

1830.

Population, 7,202.

1832.

Largest whaling fleet that ever sailed from Nantucket in one year, consisting of thirty-two vessels.

1834.

New North Meeting-house erected. Athenæum incorporated.

1836.

Great fire on Main Street; Washington Hotel and several stores consumed.

1838.

High School opened. Great fire in the town. Loss, \$300,000.

1839.

Trinity Church (Episcopal) erected; this parish having been organized a short time before by Moses Marcus, B. D.

1840.

Population, 9,712.

1841.

Ten new ships built.

1846.

Great fire, July 13 and 14; Trinity Church, Athenæum, Library, and Museum, together with about four hundred buildings, were burnt. But one store left standing. Whaling on the decline. Donations, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire, to the amount of about \$100,000, were sent from abroad.

1847.

Pine-trees planted by Josiah Sturgiss.

1850.

Population, 8,770.

1851.

Light-house on Sankoty Head erected. The light can be seen for forty-five miles at sea.

1852 - 3.

More pine-groves planted.

1854.

Gas lighted for the first time on the island.

1855.

Abram Quarry (last man with Indian blood in him) died.

1860.

Population, 6,094.

1866.

Alumni (High School) Association organized.
Population, 4,800.

1869.

Alumni celebration.

1870.

Athenæum Fair. Population, 4,300.

1871.

Grand Masonic Centennial Celebration.

RECAPITULATION OF POPULATION.

In the year 1650 there were 700 white inhabitants.

In 1719 there were 721 white inhabitants.

In 1726 there were 917 white inhabitants.

In 1764 there were 3,220 white inhabitants.

In 1774 there were 4,545 white inhabitants.

In 1784 there were 4,269 white inhabitants.

In 1790 there were 4,620 white inhabitants.

In 1800 there were 5,617 white inhabitants.

In 1810 there were 6,807 white inhabitants.

In 1820 there were 7,266 white inhabitants.

In 1830 there were 7,202 white inhabitants.

In 1840 there were 9,712 white inhabitants.

In 1850 there were 8,779 white inhabitants.

In 1860 there were 6,094 white inhabitants.

In 1866 there were 4,800 white inhabitants.

In 1870 there were 4,300 white inhabitants.

DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES.

North Congregational, Centre Street; Rev. S. D. Hosmer, pastor.

Methodist Episcopal, Centre Street, corner of Liberty; Rev. G. A. Morse, pastor.

Unitarian, Orange Street; ———, pastor.

St. Paul's, Episcopal, Fair Street; Dr. A. E. Jenks, Lay Reader.

Baptist, Summer Street; no pastor.

Colored Baptist, Pleasant Street, corner of York; no pastor.

Roman Catholic, Federal Street, near Main.

LIBRARIES.

Athenæum, Lower Pearl Street, corner of Federal.

MUSEUM.

Athenæum, Lower Pearl, corner of Federal Street.

PUBLIC HALLS.

Atlantic Hall, Main Street; Pantheon Hall, Main Street; Athenæum, Lower Pearl Street; Wendell's Hall, Main Street.

FISHING PARTIES AHOY!

The Superior and Fast Yacht, "FLORA TEMPLE,"

Capt. SAMUEL H. WINSLOW,

Can be found at Steamboat Wharf.

 PARTIES TAKEN TO THE FISHING BANKS. 

I have a house on Coatue, suitable for Picnics or Clam-Bakes, Chowders, with fine beach for bathing, where shells of all varieties may be found in large quantities.

E. C. MORSE'S

HACK AND LIVERY STABLE,

Fair Street, . . Nantucket, Mass.

(COR. OF PLUM LANE.)

Parties conveyed to all parts of the town. Good Carriages and
Reliable Drivers.

G. F. BARREAU,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

Kelly's Block,

Main Street, . . . **NANTUCKET, MASS.**

 Clothes Cleaned and Repaired on short notice.

DR. C. D. MARSH,

Fair Street, cor. Main,

NANTUCKET, MASS.

CHARLES H. JAGGAR,

Apothecary,

Allen's Block, Main Street, - NANTUCKET, MASS.

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Drugs, Medicines, and Chemicals,

PROPRIETARY MEDICINES,

Fancy and Toilet Articles,

SPONGES, BRUSHES, PERFUMERY, &c.

Physicians' Prescriptions carefully compounded, and orders from families answered with care and dispatch.

The Public will find our stock of Medicines complete, warranted genuine, and of the best quality.

Manufacturer and Proprietor of

JAGGAR'S PERSIAN BALM FOR THE HAIR.

There may also be found on hand a full assortment of *STATIONERY.*

BOARDING HOUSE,

MISS JANE JAMES,

James' Court, Liberty Street, Nantucket, Mass.

Airy Rooms, Clean Beds, Good Sea-Food. Charges always reasonable. Apply personally or by letter.

ROSS' Hair Cutting Rooms,

MAIN ST., NANTUCKET, MASS.

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Particular attention paid to Ladies' Hair Work of all kinds.

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Agricultural Wares, &c.,

Main Street, - - - NANTUCKET.

PROPRIETOR OF

Macy's Daily Express

TO HYANNIS.

OFFICE IN BOSTON, - - 34 COURT SQUARE.

NANTUCKET and HYANNIS.

DAILY TRIPS.

The Steamer **ISLAND HOME** is now running daily trips (Sundays excepted), and will continue to leave Nantucket until further notice, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and Hyannis on the arrival of the morning train, Boston.

Through tickets for sale on the boat, and baggage checked to New York, via Fall River or Newport, Boston, Providence, Taunton, and New Bedford.

N. B. The Steamboat Company reserve the privilege of going to all vessels supposed to need assistance, and they are at liberty to render such aid as may be required, and also to tow vessels on the passage, without notice. ,

O. F. ADAMS, CLERK.

NANTUCKET, July 1, 1871.

Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Highlands,

—AND—

HYANNIS.

STEAMER, - - ISLAND HOME,

Capt. N. H. MANter,

Will run Daily Trips, until further notice, between Nantucket and Hyannis, touching at above places, commencing **JULY 31, 1871**, as follows:

Leave **NANTUCKET** for **OAK BLUFFS** and **VINEYARD HIGHLANDS**, 8 A. M.

(Passengers wishing to connect with Steamer for New Bedford can remain some two hours at Oak Bluffs, and then take the 12.40 P. M. boat.)

Leave **OAK BLUFFS** and **VINEYARD HIGHLANDS** for **HYANNIS**, 10.30 A. M., connecting with P. M. Trains for Boston and Providence. Returning, leave Hyannis for Vineyard Highlands and Oak Bluffs, 11.50 A. M., being hour arrival of trains leaving Boston from Old Colony Depot 8 A. M., Providence 7 A. M.

Leave **VINEYARD HIGHLANDS** and **OAK BLUFFS** for **NANTUCKET**, 2 P. M.

(Passengers taking the 10.15 A. M. Steamer from New Bedford will have nearly two hours at Oak Bluffs, joining the **ISLAND HOME** at 2 P. M., for Nantucket, direct.)

The Inquirer and Mirror.

HUSSEY & ROBINSON,

Proprietors and Publishers.

OFFICE, . . MAIN STREET, NANTUCKET, MASS.

Published Every Saturday,

AT \$2.50 PER ANNUM.

The circulation of the INQUIRER AND MIRROR is equal to that of any weekly paper published in South Eastern Massachusetts. It is not only a LOCAL PAPER, but has an extensive circulation abroad, and is therefore a valuable medium for advertising.

JOB PRINTING,

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Executed with Neatness & Dispatch.

P. KEANE,
Foreign and Domestic Grocer,

Main Street, Nantucket, Mass.

SHIP GROCERIES OF ALL KINDS ON HAND.

JOSEPH B. SWAIN,
Boarding and Lodging,
Centre Street,
Cor. Lily, NANTUCKET, MASS.

MRS. GEO. C. RAY,
Fancy Goods, Toys, Stationery, Confectionery.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

Second-hand Books sold at very Low Prices.

19 CENTRE STREET.

REUBEN P. FOLGER,
Boarding House,
Fair Street,
NANTUCKET, MASS.

SUMMER PLEASURE BOATS.

THE SLOOP "UNDINE" will leave her moorings, near the foot of Old North Wharf, for

Cliff Shore Bathing-Houses,

every morning (Sundays excepted), at 9 o'clock, and run until 1 o'clock, P. M. After that, the "UNDINE" can be chartered by parties to go on fishing excursions, for clam-bakes, squantums, moonlight excursions up harbor, &c.

Strangers, as well as our own people, will find this a delightful sail across Nantucket harbor and around Brant Point, our pleasant town and the shore line in view the entire distance.

The "UNDINE" is a passenger boat, clean and neat, built expressly for the route to the Cliff.

The Landing at the Bathing Grounds is a little pier, jutting out from the pebbly beach, and all passengers can leave the boat, or come on board, with no inconvenience or fear of a wetting.

FARE, TEN CENTS EACH WAY.

BARZILLAI R. BURDETT, Master, Nantucket, Mass.

SAIL BOATS AND ROW BOATS TO LET BY THE DAY OR HOUR.

NANTUCKET, July 8th, 1871.

THE FAST AILING AND COMMODIOUS YACHT

"White Cloud,"

Capt. PERRY WINSLOW,

*Will lie at Steamboat Wharf during the
Season.*

Parties taken to the Fishing Grounds, Picnics, Clam-Bakes, and Squantums.

If you want a good day's Fishing just try the "White Cloud."

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MUSEUM OF RARE CURIOSITIES!!

In the Nantucket Athenæum.

This Collection, although small, yet embraces singular specimens and mementoes from all parts of the known world.

OPEN EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), from 1 to 5 o'clock, P.M. Single Admission, TEN CENTS.

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Dealer in Small Wares, Hosiery, Gloves, Threads, Needles, Stationery,
Perfumery, Jewelry, &c., &c.

Manufacturer of Emery Cushions and Fancy Basket Pin Cushions, at wholesale and retail. Fairs supplied cheap. Also, Proprietor and Manufacturer of MADAM WEST'S BRONCHIAL BALSAM, for Coughs and Bronchial troubles—a most remarkable remedy for Coughs and Colds. All orders should be directed to

J. McCoy, Nantucket, Mass.

CLEAN SHORE
Bathing Rooms,
NANTUCKET, MASS.

These rooms are well known as a place of public resort during the warm weather, and the subscriber will spare no pains to keep up their well-established reputation.

Persons in feeble health, wishing warm salt or fresh water baths, can find a room neatly fitted up for this purpose, and will receive every attention by the subscriber.

CHARLES E. HAYDEN.

E. H. PARKER,

Main Street, corner Centre,
NANTUCKET, MASS.

Foreign & Domestic Groceries,
CANNED FRUITS,
Table Sauces, Pickles, &c., &c.

FRUITS OF ALL KINDS IN THEIR SEASON.

Tobacco and Cigars, of the Finest Quality,

CONSTANTLY ON HAND.

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